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SECURITY INFORMATION

NSC BRIEFING

29 October 1953

FRENCH ASSEMBLY INDOCHINA VOTE

1. Assembly on 28 October adopted by 315 to 251 government-supported motion calling for:
  - a. Development of native armies to relieve French forces.
  - b. Use of "every possible means" to reach a general <sup>pacification</sup> ~~peace~~ in Asia by negotiation.
  - c. Assurance of just distribution of effort and sacrifice among free nations.
  - d. Continued adherence of the Associated States to the French Union.
2. Opposition to the resolution <sup>PRESUMABLY</sup> ~~apparently~~ included:

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- a. 100 Communists.
  - b. 105 Socialists
  - c. A few Popular Republicans
  - d. The rest mostly Radical Socialists  
and Independents.
  - d. (It is unlikely that any ex-  
Gaullists voted against the motion.)
3. Before a vote on this motion, the Assembly  
had rejected several opposition proposals.
- a. By a 418 to 101 vote it rejected a Com-  
munist motion for immediate negotiations  
with Viet Minh.
  - b. A Socialist motion calling for an  
end to the war through negotiations  
was rejected by 330 to 250.
4. Laniel denied any intention of fighting  
for total victory.
- a. He assured the Assembly that France  
is willing to negotiate if the Viet  
Minh seek talks.

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5. As a result:
- a. The Reynaud faction in the cabinet has probably gained support for its demand for five-power talks. (In mid-October Laniel and Bidault successfully parried such a demand which probably had support of majority of ministers.)
  - b. In any event, the Reynaud faction will insist on taking every opportunity to implement point two of the motion (negotiations).
  - c. The Navarre Plan assumes even greater importance than heretofore.
    - (1) If Navarre succeeds, French hope Viet Minh will ask for negotiations.

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- (2) If Navarre fails, France will probably seek UN intervention or attempt to turn the responsibility for the conduct of the war over to the US on the threat of a complete withdrawal, even though the French have admitted that it is militarily infeasible to attempt such a withdrawal.

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